

2012 Programs at the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge
January 7, 2012 – March 31, 2012

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:00 Am					Birding the Refuge Tour *Meet at flagpole		
8:30 AM			Birding the Refuge Tour *Meet at flagpole			Bailey Tract Birds, Wildlife and Plants Tour *Meet at Bailey Tract Parking Lot	
9:30 AM	Birds and Wildlife Tour *Meet at flagpole	Birds and Wildlife Tour *Meet at flagpole	Birds and Wildlife Tour *Meet at flagpole	Birds and Wildlife Tour *Meet at flagpole	Birds and Wildlife Tour *Meet at flagpole		
10:00 AM		Biking the Refuge Tour *Meet at Flagpole	Plants of the Bailey Tract Tour *Meet at Bailey Tract Parking Lot Biking the Refuge Tour *Meet at Flagpole	Biking the Refuge Tour *Meet at Flagpole Native Plants and Trees Walk *Flagpole	Biking the Refuge Tour *Meet at Flagpole	Indigo Trail Hike *Meet at Flagpole	Gators and Crocs *Crossdike
1100 AM	Florida Manatees *Crossdike	Birds of the Refuge *Crossdike Family Craft and Story- time *Ed Center		Gators and Crocs *Crossdike	Birds Bills and Beaks *Crossdike	Birds of the Refuge *Ed. Center	Shorebirds of the Refuge *Crossdike Family Craft and Story - time *Ed Center
12:00 PM			Calusa/Shell Mound Trail Tour *Meet at Shell Mound Trail				
1:00 PM	Fishing the Refuge *Crossdike	Florida's Venomous Wildlife *Ed Center Endangered Species *Crossdike	Gators and Crocs *Crossdike	Florida Manatees *Crossdike	Nature Photography * EE Center Natures Pollinators: Butterflies & Gardening *Crossdike	Lecture Series EE Center	Birds of the Refuge *Crossdike



All programs are free of charge and family friendly.

See program descriptions on back.

***Entrance fees apply to Wildlife Drive, Cross Dike Pavilion and Indigo Trail. (\$5.00/vehicle or \$1.00/adult hiker)**



Tours Daily: Jan 7 – March 31, 2012		Entrance Fees Apply for Tours on Wildlife Drive, Programs are FREE
Bailey Tract Birds, Wildlife and Plants Tour Join naturalists as they lead you through this freshwater spartina ecosystem to learn about the birds, wildlife and wild flowers. Bring water and bug spray. Meet in the Bailey Tract Parking Lot. Fun for adults and children alike. Approximately 2 miles, 1 ½ hours		
Biking the Refuge Tour Bike enthusiasts, bring your bicycle and join a naturalist on the Wildlife Drive/Indigo Trail loop to learn about the refuge's bird life and ecology. The Drive is paved while the Indigo Trail is hard-packed shell, so the tour is suitable for people of all abilities. Bring water and bug spray. Meet at the flagpole in front of the Education Center. Fun for adults and children alike. 4 miles, 1 ½ hours		
Birding the Refuge Tour Advanced Birders Delight! Meet a naturalist for a birding tour along Wildlife Drive. This car caravan tour takes you through some of the most popular birding locations in the refuge, specializing in bird identification. Bring water and bug spray. Meet at the flagpole in front of the Education Center. 1 ½ hours		
Birds and Wildlife Tour Come along on a car caravan tour of the refuge. This tour highlights the many fascinating natural wonders of this unique mangrove ecosystem and the wildlife that live here. The naturalists will give you an overview of all facets of the refuge. Meet at the flagpole. 1 ½ hours		
Calusa Shell Mound Trail Tour Meet naturalists who will enthrall you with tales of the Calusa people's history and teach you about native Florida plant life on this enchanting boardwalk trail. Bring water and bug spray. Meet at the Shell Mound Trail Parking Lot. 1/3 mile, 12 - 2pm continuously		
Indigo Trail Hike Naturalists lead a tour identifying and discussing the ecosystem's plants, animals, birds and reptiles. Bring water and bug spray. Meet at the flagpole in front of the Education Center. Fun for adults and children alike. Approximately 2 miles, 1 ½ hours		
Native Plants and Trees Walk Walk the parking area and the boardwalk of the Indigo Trail with a naturalist to learn about the plants and trees of Southwest Florida. Meet at the flagpole in front of the Education Center. Fun for adults and children alike. Approximately ¼ mile, 1 hour		
Plants of the Bailey Tract Tour Walk the trails of the Bailey Tract with a naturalist to learn about the plants and trees of the freshwater ecosystem of Southwest Florida. Meet at the Bailey Tract Parking Lot. Fun for adults and children alike. Approximately 2 miles, 1 ½ hours		

Programs Daily: Jan 7 – March 31, 2012		Entrance Fees Apply for Programs at Cross Dike Pavilion on Wildlife Drive
Birds, Bills and Beaks . . . How do they eat? What is on the menu for the birds in the estuary? Learn how to identify the birds found in the refuge, their adaptations and interesting facts about them. Watch a naturalist demonstrate how these birds use their specialized bills to find food in this diverse mangrove ecosystem. Fun for adults and children alike. 30 minutes		
Birds of the Refuge Not sure which feathery friends you are seeing through your binoculars? Learn interesting facts about birds and how to identify them in the estuary. Fun for adults and children alike. 30 minutes		
Endangered and Threatened Species The habitats of animals throughout the world are disappearing, affecting species everywhere. Come discover endangered species of Southwest Florida and what you can do to help them. Fun for adults and children alike. 30 minutes		
Family Craft and Story-time Join a naturalist for story-time at our refuge. Bring your family to hear an exciting story followed by a program and craft highlighting an animal in our estuarine ecosystem. Story-time is appropriate for pre-K through 8 th , but everyone is welcome to attend. 30 minutes		
Fishing the Refuge: Learn about where you should go fishing, what you should use to catch them, and what's biting! 30 minutes		
Florida Manatees Explore the world of one of America's most endangered species, the Florida manatee, as it faces a challenging future. Find out what you can do to help save this species. Fun for adults and children alike. 30 minutes		
Florida's Venomous Wildlife Learn about the venomous wildlife that live in Southwest Florida. We will teach you how to identify the animals and their habitats. Fun for adults and children alike. 30 minutes		
Gators and Crocs Is it an alligator or crocodile? Learn about the order <i>Crocodylia</i> , including crocodiles, gharials, alligators and caimans. Learn how to identify families and which species live in the refuge. Fun for adults and children alike. 30 minutes		
Nature Photography Get back to nature! Learn the art of nature photography using basic equipment. We will teach you how to understand your subject and the etiquette involved in getting that great shot without disturbing the subject. Great for family outings in nature. 30 minutes		
Nature's Pollinators: Butterflies and Gardening Want to find out how to attract the natural beauty of butterflies and other pollinators to your yard? Join a naturalist for pointers on this wonderful family project. We will also help you identify the butterflies you'll see. Fun for adults and children alike. 30 minutes		
Shorebirds of the Refuge Learn how to identify the small waterbirds found in the refuge. 30 minutes		

LECTURE SERIES: FRIDAYS at 1:00pm see lecture series handout for lecture schedule